

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 56 and 57, without prejudice. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal panel having a pair of substrates and liquid crystals which are sealed between the pair of substrates and whose molecules are aligned substantially perpendicularly to the surfaces of the substrates when no voltage is applied;

first and second polarizing elements provided on both sides of the liquid crystal panel such that their absorption axes are orthogonal to each other;

a first optical retardation film which is provided between the liquid crystal panel and the first polarizing element, which satisfies  $n_x > n_y \cong n_z$  and which is provided such that its phase-delay axis (the direction of  $n_x$ ) is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the first polarizing element,  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  representing refractive indices in directions in the plane of the film among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$ ,  $n_z$  representing a refractive index in the normal direction of the film;

a second optical retardation film which is provided between the liquid crystal panel and the second polarizing element, which satisfies  $n_x > n_y \cong n_z$  and which is provided such that its phase-delay axis (the direction of  $n_x$ ) is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the

second polarizing element,  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  representing refractive indices in directions in the plane of the film among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$ ,  $n_z$  representing a refractive index in the normal direction of the film; and

at least one additional optical retardation film which is provided in a location at least between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film, between the first optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel, between the second polarizing element and the second optical retardation film or between the second optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel and which satisfies  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$ ,  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  representing refractive indices in directions in the plane of the film among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$ ,  $n_z$  representing a refractive index in the normal direction of the film.

6. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 5, further comprising a domain defining structure constituted by a protrusion, a recess, a slit provided on an electrode or a combination of them being provided at least either of surfaces of the pair of substrates that form the liquid crystal panel in a face-to-face relationship; and

wherein the domain defining structure defines the tilting direction of the liquid crystals such that the tilting direction becomes a plurality of directions in each pixel when a voltage is applied between the substrates.

7. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 5, satisfying:

$$0 \leq R_1;$$

$$0 \leq R_2;$$

$$0 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M;$$

$$(-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) - 60 \leq R_1 \leq (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) + 60;$$

$$(-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) - 60 \leq R_2 \leq (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) + 60; \text{ and}$$

$$(1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) - 25 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M \leq (1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) + 25$$

wherein  $\alpha = (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N) / (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M)$  and

wherein the numerical values are in nm,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  representing retardations  $(n_x - n_y)d$  of the first and second optical retardation films respectively ( $d$  representing the thickness of the optical retardation films),  $Rt_1, Rt_2, \dots, Rt_N$  representing retardations of  $N$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film or between the second polarizing element and the second optical retardation film ( $d$  representing the thickness of the additional optical retardation films),  $Rt'_1, Rt'_2, \dots, Rt'_M$  ( $N + M \geq 1$ ) representing retardations of  $M$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel or between the second optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel ( $d$  representing the thickness of the additional optical retardation films),  $R_{LC}$  representing a retardation in the liquid crystal panel.

8. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 5, satisfying:

$$0 \leq R_1;$$

$$0 \leq R_2;$$

$$0 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M;$$

$$(-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) - 30 \leq R_1 \leq (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) + 30;$$

$$(-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) - 30 \leq R_2 \leq (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) + 30; \text{ and}$$

$$(1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) - 60 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M \leq (1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) + 60$$

wherein  $\alpha = (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N) / (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M)$  and

wherein the numerical values are in nm,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  representing retardations  $(n_x - n_y)d$  of the first and second optical retardation films respectively ( $d$  representing the thickness of the optical retardation films),  $Rt_1, Rt_2, \dots, Rt_N$  representing retardations of  $N$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film or between the second polarizing element and the second optical retardation film ( $d$  representing the thickness of the additional optical retardation films),  $Rt'_1, Rt'_2, \dots, Rt'_M$  ( $N + M \geq 1$ ) representing retardations of  $M$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first optical

retardation film and the liquid crystal panel or between the second optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel ( $d$  representing the thickness of the additional optical retardation films),  $R_{LC}$  representing a retardation in the liquid crystal panel.

9. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 5, wherein at least either of the first and second optical retardation films is a stretched film.

10. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 5, wherein at least either of the first and second optical retardation films comprises a polymer liquid crystal layer.

11. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising:  
a liquid crystal panel in which a liquid crystal layer made of liquid crystals is sandwiched between a pair of substrates, the liquid crystals including liquid crystal molecules whose longitudinal directions are aligned substantially perpendicularly to surfaces of the substrates when no voltage is applied;

first and second polarizing elements provided outside the liquid crystal panel on both sides thereof and disposed such that respective absorption axes are orthogonal to each other and such that the absorption axes are substantially at an angle of 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of the liquid crystal molecules when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystals;

a first optical retardation film of a first type provided between the first polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel such that a phase-delay axis thereof is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the first polarizing element, the first type of optical retardation film being an optical retardation film whose in-plane refractive index  $n_x$  is greater than both of an in-plane refractive index  $n_y$  thereof and a refractive index  $n_z$  thereof in the direction of the thickness thereof;

a second optical retardation film of the first type provided between the second polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel such that a phase-delay axis thereof is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the second polarizing element, the second optical retardation film of the first type being an optical retardation film in which  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are substantially equal to each other and in which  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are greater than  $n_z$ ; and

at least one optical retardation film of a second type provided in at least one location between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film of the first type, between the second polarizing element and the second optical retardation film of the first type, between the first optical retardation film of the first type and the liquid crystal panel or between the second optical retardation film of the first type and the liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal display satisfying:

$$R_{p-t} = 2 \times (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58 \text{ nm} + \alpha)$$

where  $\alpha = \pm 30 \text{ nm}$ ; and

$$R_{t-t} = (1.05 \pm 0.05) \times R_{LC} - 47 \text{ nm} + \beta$$

where  $-100 \text{ nm} \leq \beta \leq 47 \text{ nm}$ , a retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer being represented by

And that is the product of birefringence  $\Delta n$  of the liquid crystals and the thickness  $d$  of the liquid crystal layer, a retardation  $R_p$  in an optical retardation film in a direction in the plane thereof being represented by  $(n_x - n_y)d$ , a retardation  $R_t$  in the direction of the thickness being represented by  $((n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$ , the sum of retardations  $R_p$  in in-plane directions of the plurality of optical retardation films excluding optical retardation films whose phase-delay axes are located in parallel with the absorption axes of polarizing elements adjacent thereto being represented by  $R_{p-t}$ , the sum of retardations  $R_t$  in the direction of thickness of the plurality of optical retardation films being represented by  $R_{t-t}$ .

12. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer is in the range between 250 nm and 310 nm inclusive; the sum  $R_{t-t}$  of the retardations in the direction of the thickness is in the range between 180 nm and 260 nm inclusive; and the sum of the retardations in in-plane directions of the optical retardation films of the first type is in the range between 25 nm and 50 nm inclusive.

13. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer is in the range between 310 nm and 390 nm inclusive; the sum  $R_{t-t}$  of the retardations in the direction of the thickness is in the range between 230 nm and 350 nm inclusive; and the sum of the retardations in in-plane directions

of the optical retardation films of the first type is in the range between 25 nm and 50 nm inclusive.

14. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the optical retardation film of the first type is a film stretched in the direction of one or two axes.

15. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 11, wherein the optical retardation film of the second type is a protective member that constitutes a polarizer in combination with the polarizing element.

16. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising:

- first and second substrates provided in a face-to-face relationship with a predetermined gap left therebetween;
- a liquid crystal layer in a bend alignment sealed in the gap;
- a first polarizer provided on a surface of the first substrate opposite to the side where the liquid crystal layer is located;
- a second polarizer provided on a surface of the second substrate opposite to the side where the liquid crystal layer is located;
- a first optical compensation film which is provided between the first substrate and the first polarizer and which has discotic liquid crystals whose tilt angle changes in accordance with non-linear changes in the tilt of liquid crystal molecules in a region of the



liquid crystal layer closer to the first substrate that is one of two substantially equal regions of the liquid crystal layer formed by dividing the layer in the normal direction of the substrate surface to compensate any retardation attributable to the non-linear changes in the tilt; and

a second optical compensation film which is provided between the second substrate and the second polarizer and which has discotic liquid crystals whose tilt angle changes in accordance with non-linear changes in the tilt of liquid crystal molecules in a region of the liquid crystal layer closer to the second substrate that is one of the two substantially equal regions of the liquid crystal layer formed by dividing the layer in the normal direction of the substrate surface to compensate any retardation attributable to the non-linear changes in the tilt.

17. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 16, wherein each of the first and second optical compensation films is formed by laminating a plurality of discotic liquid crystal layers whose tilt angle changes substantially linearly to compensate the retardation by interpolating the curve of the non-linear changes of the tilt angle of the liquid crystal layer.

18. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 17, wherein each of the first and second optical compensation films is constituted by a lamination of a plurality of films having the discotic liquid crystal layer whose tilt angle changes substantially linearly.

19. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 18, wherein the discotic liquid crystals in each of the plurality of films are aligned in substantially the same direction as the direction of alignment of the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer and wherein the tilt angle (absolute value) increases with the distance from the liquid crystal layer, a direction perpendicular to the normal of the substrate surface serving as a reference.

20. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 16, wherein the first and second optical compensation films perform optimum compensation of the retardation when black is displayed in a normally black mode.

21. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 16, wherein the retardation in the liquid crystal layer is in the range from 800 to 1200 nm.

22. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 21, wherein each of the first and second optical compensation films has a multi-layer structure formed by first and second sub-films located in this order which is the order of their closeness to the liquid crystal layer and wherein the maximum value (absolute value)  $\theta_1$  of the tilt angle of the discotic liquid crystals in the first sub-film satisfies  $50^\circ \leq \theta_1 \leq 80^\circ$ .

23. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 22, wherein  $R1 + R2$  is  $450\text{ nm} \pm 150\text{ nm}$  and  $R2/R1$  ranges from 1 to 10 where  $R1$  represents a retardation in the first sub-film and  $R2$  represents a retardation in the second sub-film.

24. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 21, wherein each of the first and second optical compensation films has a multi-layer structure formed by first through third sub-films located in this order which is the order of their closeness to the liquid crystal layer; the maximum value (absolute value)  $\theta1$  of the tilt angle of the discotic liquid crystals in the first sub-film satisfies  $30^\circ \leq \theta1 \leq 60^\circ$ ; and the maximum value (absolute value)  $\theta2$  of the tilt angle of the discotic liquid crystals in the second sub-film satisfies  $\theta1 \leq \theta2 < 85^\circ$ .

25. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 24, wherein  $R1 + R2 + R3$  is  $450\text{ nm} \pm 150\text{ nm}$ ;  $R2/R1$  ranges from 1 to 5; and  $R3/R1$  ranges from 5 to 10 where  $R1$  represents a retardation in the first sub-film;  $R2$  represents a retardation in the second sub-film; and  $R3$  represents a retardation in the third sub-film.

26. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 16, further comprising a third optical compensation film provided between the first optical compensation film and the first polarizer, the third optical compensation film being a positive vertically

aligned optical retardation film which is an index ellipsoid represented by  $n_x = n_y < n_z$ ,  $n_z$  substantially coinciding with the normal of the substrate surface.

27. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 16, further comprising;

a third optical compensation film provided between the first optical compensation film and the first polarizer; and

a fourth optical compensation film provided between the second optical compensation film and the second polarizer;

wherein the third and fourth optical compensation films are negative optical retardation films.

28. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 27, wherein the maximum value (absolute value)  $\theta_u$  of the tilt angle of the discotic liquid crystals in the first and second optical compensation films is substantially 90 deg.

29. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 27, wherein the minimum value (absolute value)  $\theta_l$  of the tilt angle of the discotic liquid crystals in the first and second optical compensation films is substantially 30 deg.

30. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 16, further comprising a uniaxial optical retardation film provided between the third optical compensation film and the first polarizer.

31. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal panel in which a liquid crystal layer made of liquid crystals is sandwiched between a pair of substrates, the liquid crystals including liquid crystal molecules whose longitudinal directions are aligned substantially perpendicularly to surfaces of the substrates when no voltage is applied;

two polarizing elements provided outside the liquid crystal panel on both sides thereof and disposed such that respective absorption axes are orthogonal to each other and such that the absorption axes are substantially at an angle of 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of the liquid crystal molecules when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystals; and

at least one optical retardation film provided between at least one of the polarizing elements and the liquid crystal panel, the direction of the smallest principal refractive index  $n_z$  among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  thereof being tilted from the normal direction of the substrates.

32. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 31, further comprising a domain defining structure constituted by a protrusion, a recess, a slit provided on an electrode or a combination of them being provided at least either of surfaces of the pair

of substrates that form the liquid crystal panel in a face-to-face relationship; and wherein the domain defining structure defines the tilting direction of the liquid crystals such that the tilting direction becomes a plurality of directions in each pixel when a voltage is applied between the substrates.

33. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 32, wherein the optical retardation film satisfies:

$$n_x \cong n_y > n_z \text{ and } 0 \text{ nm} \leq (n_x - n_y)d \leq 10 \text{ nm}$$

where d represents the thickness of an optical layer thereof.

34. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 33, satisfying:

$$0 \text{ deg.} < \theta \leq 15 \text{ deg.}$$

where  $\theta$  represents the angle defined by the direction of  $n_z$  and the normal of the substrate.

35. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 34, wherein an angle  $\phi$  is any of 0 deg., 90 deg., 180 deg. and 270 deg.,  $\phi$  representing the angle defined by the azimuth angle at which  $n_z$  is tilted and the absorption axis of the first and second polarizing elements.

36. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 35 comprising:

N optical retardation films which satisfy  $\theta \leq \alpha$  and  $\phi = \beta$ ; and

$N'$  optical retardation films which satisfy  $\theta \leq \alpha$  and  $\phi = \beta + 180^\circ$ , the liquid crystal display satisfying:

$$0 < (1/2 + \alpha/30) \times (R_{t1} + R_{t2} + \dots + R_{tN}) + (1/2 - \alpha/30) \times (R'_{t1} + R'_{t2} + \dots + R'_{tN'}) < 0.88 \times (\Delta n_{LC} \cdot d_{LC} + R_{tPL}); \text{ and}$$

$$0 < (1/2 - \alpha/30) \times (R_{t1} + R_{t2} + \dots + R_{tN}) + (1/2 + \alpha/30) \times (R'_{t1} + R'_{t2} + \dots + R'_{tN'}) < 0.88 \times (\Delta n_{LC} \cdot d_{LC} + R_{tPL})$$

where  $0 \text{ deg.} < \alpha \leq 15 \text{ deg.}$ ;  $\beta$  is any of  $0 \text{ deg.}$ ,  $90 \text{ deg.}$ ,  $180 \text{ deg.}$  and  $270 \text{ deg.}$ ;  $N \geq 0$  and  $N' \geq 0$  ( $N = N' = 0$  is excluded);  $R_{t1}, R_{t2}, \dots, R_{tN}$  represent retardations  $R_t$  in the first through  $N$ -th optical retardation films whose angle  $\phi = \beta$  where retardation  $R_t = ((n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)$ ;  $R'_{t1}, R'_{t2}, \dots, R'_{tN'}$  represent retardations  $R_t$  in the first through  $N'$ -th optical retardation films whose angle  $\phi = \beta + 180$ ;  $\Delta n_{LC}$  represents anisotropy of refractivity of liquid crystals;  $d_{LC}$  represents a cell thickness; and  $R_{tPL}$  represents the sum of the retardations  $R_t$  of films serving as an optical retardation film among support films used for the polarizing elements.

37. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 36, further comprising an optical retardation film whose angle  $\theta$  continuously or discontinuously changes in the direction of the thickness thereof.

38. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising:  
first and second substrates provided in a face-to-face relationship with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween;

a nematic liquid crystal layer having negative dielectric anisotropy which is sealed in the gap and whose liquid crystal molecules in the vicinity of the surfaces of the first and second substrates maintains a substantially vertical alignment to form a spray alignment as a whole when a voltage is applied;

a first polarizer provided on a surface of the first substrate opposite to the side thereof where the liquid crystal layer is located;

a second polarizer provided on a surface of the second substrate opposite to the side thereof where the liquid crystal layer is located; and

an optical compensation film provided at least between the first substrate and the first polarizer or between the second substrate and the second polarizer, for compensating any retardation in the liquid crystal layer.

39. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 38, further comprising:

a first optical compensation film provided between the first substrate and the first polarizer and having discotic liquid crystals whose tilt angle is changed in accordance with linear changes in the tilt of liquid crystal molecules in a region of the liquid crystal layer closer to the first substrate that is one of two regions of the liquid crystal layer substantially equally divided in the normal direction of the substrate surface to compensate retardations attributable to the linear changes of the tilt; and



a second optical compensation film provided between the second substrate and the second polarizer and having discotic liquid crystals whose tilt angle is changed in accordance with linear changes in the tilt of liquid crystal molecules in a region of the liquid crystal layer closer to the second substrate that is one of the two regions of the liquid crystal layer substantially equally divided in the normal direction of the substrate surface to compensate retardations attributable to the linear changes of the tilt.

40. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 39, wherein the first and second optical compensation films optically compensate the state of black in the normally black mode.

41. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 40, wherein changes in the direction of a principal refractive index  $n_z$  among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  of the discotic liquid crystals in the first optical compensation film are associated with the direction of changes in the principal refractive index  $n_z$  of the liquid crystal molecules which are in the region closer to the first substrate that is one of the two substantially equal regions defined by dividing the liquid crystal layer in the normal direction of the substrate surface and wherein changes in the direction of a principal refractive index  $n_z$  among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  of the discotic liquid crystals in the second optical compensation film are associated with the direction of changes in the principal refractive index  $n_z$  of the liquid crystal molecules which are in the region closer to the second

substrate that is one of the two substantially equal regions defined by dividing the liquid crystal layer in the normal direction of the substrate surface.

42. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 41, wherein changes in the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_z$  of the discotic liquid crystals in the first and second optical compensation films is linear relative to changes in the positions of the discotic liquid crystals in the normal direction of the substrate surface.

43. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 39, wherein the retardation  $\Delta n d$  ( $\Delta n$  represents anisotropy of refractivity, and “d” represents the cell gap) in the liquid crystal layer ranges from 500 to 2000 nm, and the retardation  $R = ((n_z + n_y)/2 - n_z)D$  ( $D$  represents the thickness of each of the first and second optical compensation films) of each of the first and second optical compensation films ranges from 300 to 1200 nm.

44. (Original) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 39, further comprising a third optical compensation film which is an index ellipsoid satisfying  $n_x = n_y < n_z$  and whose principal refractive index  $n_z$  coincides with the normal of the substrate surface and a fourth optical compensation film which is a uniaxial optical retardation film with an optic axis that coincides with the direction of the transmission axis of the first polarizer are provided at least between the first optical compensation film and the first polarizer or

between the second optical compensation film and the second polarizer, the third optical compensation film being located closer to the liquid crystal layer.

45-55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal layer in a twisted structure sealed between two substrates in a face-to-face relationship in which the direction of alignment is about 90 deg. different between a region in the vicinity of one of the substrates and a region in the vicinity of the other substrate;

two polarizing films respectively provided outside the two substrates, the polarizing axes of the polarizing films being in parallel with each other and being at an angle of about 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of liquid crystals in the vicinity of the substrates; and

an optical retardation film whose principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  satisfy  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$ , the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_x$  being substantially in parallel with the polarizing axes of the polarizing films; the direction of the principal

refractive index  $n_z$  being tilted at a tilt angle  $\theta$  from the normal direction of the film surface about the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_x$ , the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_y$  being tilted at the tilt angle  $\theta$  from a direction in parallel with the film surface at the same time;

wherein the tilt angle  $\theta$  is in a range expressed by  $30 \text{ deg.} \leq \theta \leq 70 \text{ deg.}$

59. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display, comprising:

a liquid crystal layer in a twisted structure scaled between two substrates in a face-to-face relationship in which the direction of alignment is about 90 deg. Different between a region in the vicinity of one of the substrates and a region in the vicinity of the other substrate;

two polarizing films respectively provided outside the two substrates, the polarizing axes of the polarizing films being in parallel with each other and being at an angle of about 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of liquid crystals in the vicinity of the substrates; and

an optical retardation film whose principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  satisfy  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$ , the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_x$  being substantially in parallel with the polarizing axes of the polarizing films; the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_z$  being tilted at a tilt angle  $\theta$  from the normal direction of the film surface about the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_x$ , the direction of the principal refractive

index  $n_y$  being tilted at the tilt angle  $\theta$  from a direction in parallel with the film surface at the same time;

wherein the principal refractive indices  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  satisfy  $70 \text{ nm} < (n_x - n_y) \times D < 160 \text{ nm}$  where  $D$  represents the thickness of the optical retardation film.

60. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal layer in a twisted structure sealed between two substrates in a face-to-face relationship in which the direction of alignment is about 90 deg. different between a region in the vicinity of one of the substrates and a region in the vicinity of the other substrate;

two polarizing films respectively provided outside the two substrates, the polarizing axes of the polarizing films being in parallel with each other and being at an angle of about 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of liquid crystals in the vicinity of the substrates; and

an optical retardation film whose principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  satisfy  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$ , the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_x$  being substantially in parallel with the polarizing axes of the polarizing films; the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_z$  being tilted at a tilt angle  $\theta$  from the normal direction of the film surface about the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_x$ , the direction of the principal refractive index  $n_y$  being tilted at the tilt angle  $\theta$  from a direction in parallel with the film surface at the same time;

wherein a retardation  $R$  in the liquid crystal layer satisfies  $400 \text{ nm} \leq R \leq 550 \text{ nm}$ .

61. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal layer in a twisted structure sealed between two substrates in a face-to-face relationship in which the directions of alignment in the vicinity of one of the substrates and in the vicinity of the other substrate are twisted at an angle less than 90 deg;

two polarizing films which are respectively provided outside the two substrates and whose polarizing axes are orthogonal to each other;

an optical retardation film which is provided between one of the substrates and one of the polarizing films provided outside the same and whose principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  satisfy  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$  where the  $z$ -axis extends in the direction of the thickness of the film; and

at least two uniaxial films provided between the other substrate and the other polarizing film provided outside the same, the direction of the optic axis of at least one of the uniaxial films coinciding with the absorption axis or transmission axis of the other polarizing film;

wherein a retardation  $R$  in the optical retardation film satisfies  $70 \text{ nm} \leq R \leq 200 \text{ nm}$ .

62. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal layer in a twisted structure sealed between two substrates in a face-to-face relationship in which the directions of alignment in the vicinity of one of the substrates and in the vicinity of the other substrate are twisted at an angle less than 90 deg;

two polarizing films which are respectively provided outside the two substrates and whose polarizing axes are orthogonal to each other;

an optical retardation film which is provided between one of the substrates and one of the polarizing films provided outside the same and whose principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  satisfy  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$  where the z-axis extends in the direction of the thickness of the film; and

at least two uniaxial films provided between the other substrate and the other polarizing film provided outside the same, the direction of the optic axis of at least one of the uniaxial films coinciding with the absorption axis or transmission axis of the other polarizing film;

wherein the uniaxial film having the other optic axis has a retardation at a value ranging from 20 nm to 100 nm and wherein the other optic axis is set in a direction in which the axis does not coincide with the absorption axis and transmission axis of the other polarizing film.

63. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal layer in a twisted structure sealed between two substrates in a

face-to-face relationship in which the directions of alignment in the vicinity of one of the substrates and in the vicinity of the other substrate are twisted at an angle less than 90 deg;

two polarizing films which are respectively provided outside the two substrates and whose polarizing axes are orthogonal to each other;

an optical retardation film which is provided between one of the substrates and one of the polarizing films provided outside the same and whose principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  satisfy  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$  where the z-axis extends in the direction of the thickness of the film; and

at least two uniaxial films provided between the other substrate and the other polarizing film provided outside the same, the direction of the optic axis of at least one of the uniaxial films coinciding with the absorption axis or transmission axis of the other polarizing film;

wherein the direction of alignment of liquid crystal molecules in the middle of the cell gap is tilted at about 45 deg. (or 135 deg.) from the vertical and horizontal direction of the panel when no voltage is applied.

64. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal panel having a pair of substrates and liquid crystals which are sealed between the pair of substrates and whose molecules are aligned substantially perpendicularly to the surfaces of the substrates when no voltage is applied;



first and second polarizing elements provided on both sides of the liquid crystal panel such that their absorption axes are orthogonal to each other;

an optical retardation film which is provided between the liquid crystal panel and the first polarizing element, which satisfies  $n_x > n_y \cong n_z$  and which is provided such that its phase-delay axis (the direction of  $n_x$ ) is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the first polarizing element,  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  representing refractive indices in directions in the plane of the film among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$ ,  $n_z$  representing a refractive index in the normal direction of the film; and

at least one additional optical retardation film which is provided in a location at least between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film, between the first optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel or between the second polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel and which satisfies  $n_x \cong n_y > n_z$ ,  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  representing refractive indices in directions in the plane of the film among principal refractive indices  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$ ,  $n_z$  representing a refractive index in the normal direction of the film.

65. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 64, satisfying:

$$0 \leq R_1;$$

$$0 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M;$$

$$(-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) - 60 \leq R_1 \leq (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times$$

$(1 - \alpha) + 60$ ; and

$$(1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) - 25 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N +$$

$$Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M \leq (1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) + 25$$

wherein

$$\alpha = (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N) / (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M) \text{ and}$$

wherein the numerical values are in nm,

$R_1$  representing retardations  $(n_x - n_y)d$  of the first optical retardation film ( $d$  representing the thickness of the optical retardation films),

$Rt_1, Rt_2, \dots, Rt_n$  representing retardations of  $N$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film,

$Rt'_1, Rt'_2, \dots, Rt'_M$  ( $N + M \geq 1$ ) representing retardations of  $M$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel or between the second polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel ( $d$  representing the thickness of the additional optical retardation films),

$R_{LC}$  representing a retardation in the liquid crystal panel.

66. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 64, satisfying:

$$0 \leq R_1;$$

$$0 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M;$$

$(-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) - 30 \leq R_1 \leq (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58) \times \alpha + 95 \times (1 - \alpha) + 30$ ; and

$(1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) - 60 \leq Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M \leq (1.13 \times R_{LC} - 105) \times \alpha + (0.89 \times R_{LC} - 137) (1 - \alpha) + 60$

wherein

$\alpha = (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N) / (Rt_1 + Rt_2 + \dots + Rt_N + Rt'_1 + Rt'_2 + \dots + Rt'_M)$  and

wherein the numerical values are in nm,

$R_1$  representing retardation  $(n_x - n_y)d$  of the first optical retardation films ( $d$  representing the thickness of the optical retardation films),

$Rt_1, Rt_2, \dots, Rt_N$  representing retardations of  $N$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film,

$Rt'_1, Rt'_2, \dots, Rt'_M$  ( $N + M \geq 1$ ) representing retardations of  $M$  optical retardation films  $(n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$  among the additional optical retardation films which are provided at least between the first optical retardation film and the liquid crystal panel or between the second polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel ( $d$  representing the thickness of the additional optical retardation films),

$R_{LC}$  representing a retardation in the liquid crystal panel.

67. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 64, wherein the optical retardation films is a stretched film.

68. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 64, wherein the optical retardation films comprises a polymer liquid crystal layer.

69. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal panel in which a liquid crystal layer made of liquid crystals is sandwiched between a pair of substrates, the liquid crystals including liquid crystal molecules whose longitudinal directions are aligned substantially perpendicularly to surfaces of the substrates when no voltage is applied;

first and second polarizing elements provided outside the liquid crystal panel on both sides thereof and disposed such that respective absorption axes are orthogonal to each other and such that the absorption axes are substantially at an angle of 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of the liquid crystal molecules when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystals;

a first optical retardation film of a first type provided between the first polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel such that a phase-delay axis thereof is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the first polarizing element, the first type of optical retardation film being an optical retardation film whose in-plane refractive index  $n_x$  is greater than both of an in-plane refractive index  $n_y$  thereof and a refractive index  $n_z$  thereof in the direction of the thickness thereof;

a second optical retardation film of the first type provided between the second polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel such that a phase-delay axis thereof is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the second polarizing element, the second optical retardation film of the first type being an optical retardation film in which  $n_x$  is greater than both of an in-plane refractive index  $n_y$  thereof and a refractive index  $n_z$  thereof in the direction of the thickness thereof; and

no additional or at least one optical retardation film of a second type in which  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are substantially equal to each other and in which  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are greater than  $n_z$  provided in at least one location between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film of the first type, between the second polarizing element and the second optical retardation film of the first type, between the first optical retardation film of the first type and the liquid crystal panel or between the second optical retardation film of the first type and the liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal display satisfying:

$$R_{p-t} = 2 \times (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58 \text{ nm} + \alpha)$$

where  $\alpha = \pm 30 \text{ nm}$ ; and

$$R_{t-t} = (1.05 \pm 0.05) \times R_{LC} - 47 \text{ nm} + \beta$$

where  $-100 \text{ nm} \leq \beta \leq 47 \text{ nm}$ , a retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer being represented by  $\Delta n d$  and that is the product of birefringence  $\Delta n$  of the liquid crystals and the thickness  $d$  of the liquid crystal layer, a retardation  $R_p$  in an optical retardation film in a direction in the plane thereof being represented by  $(n_x - n_y)d$ , a retardation  $R_t$  in the direction of the thickness being represented by  $((n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$ , the sum of retardations  $R_p$  in in-plane directions of the

plurality of optical retardation films excluding optical retardation films whose phase-delay axes are located in parallel with the absorption axes of polarizing elements adjacent thereto being represented by  $R_{p-t}$ , the sum of retardations  $R_t$  in the direction of thickness of the plurality of optical retardation films being represented by  $R_{t-t}$ .

70. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 69, wherein the retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer is in the range between 250 nm and 310 nm inclusive; the sum  $R_{t-t}$  of the retardations in the direction of the thickness is in the range between 180 nm and 260 nm inclusive; and the sum of the retardations in in-plane directions of the optical retardation films of the first type is in the range between 25 nm and 50 nm inclusive.

71. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 69, wherein the retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer is in the range between 310 nm and 390 nm inclusive; the sum  $R_{t-t}$  of the retardations in the direction of the thickness is in the range between 230 nm and 350 nm inclusive; and the sum of the retardations in in-plane directions of the optical retardation films of the first type is in the range between 25 nm and 50 nm inclusive.

72. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 69, wherein the optical retardation film of the first type is a film stretched in the direction of one or two axes.

73. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 69, wherein the optical retardation film of the second type is a protective member that constitutes a polarizer in combination with the polarizing element.

74. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display comprising:  
a liquid crystal panel in which a liquid crystal layer made of liquid crystals is sandwiched between a pair of substrates, the liquid crystals including liquid crystal molecules whose longitudinal directions are aligned substantially perpendicularly to surfaces of the substrates when no voltage is applied;

first and second polarizing elements provided outside the liquid crystal panel on both sides thereof and disposed such that respective absorption axes are orthogonal to each other and such that the absorption axes are substantially at an angle of 45 deg. to the direction of alignment of the liquid crystal molecules when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystals;

a first optical retardation film of a first type provided between the first polarizing element and the liquid crystal panel such that a phase-delay axis thereof is orthogonal to the absorption axis of the first polarizing element, the first type of optical retardation film being an optical retardation film whose in-plane refractive index  $n_x$  is greater

than both of an in-plane refractive index  $n_y$  thereof and a refractive index  $n_x$  thereof in the direction of the thickness thereof;

no additional or at least one optical retardation film of a second type provided in which  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are substantially equal to each other and in which  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are greater than  $n_z$  in at least one location between the first polarizing element and the first optical retardation film of the first type, between the second polarizing element and the second optical retardation film of the first type, between the first optical retardation film of the first type and the liquid crystal panel or between the second optical retardation film of the first type and the liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal display satisfying:

$$R_{p-t} = 2 \times (-0.08 \times R_{LC} + 58 \text{ nm} + \alpha)$$

where  $\alpha = \pm 30 \text{ nm}$ ; and

$$R_{t-t} = (1.05 \pm 0.05) \times R_{LC} - 47 \text{ nm} + \beta$$

where  $-100 \text{ nm} \leq \beta \leq 47 \text{ nm}$ , a retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer being represented by  $\Delta n d$  and that is the product of birefringence  $\Delta n$  of the liquid crystals and the thickness  $d$  of the liquid crystal layer, a retardation  $R_p$  in an optical retardation film in a direction in the plane thereof being represented by  $(n_x - n_y)d$ , a retardation  $R_t$  in the direction of the thickness being represented by  $((n_x + n_y)/2 - n_z)d$ , the sum of retardations  $R_p$  in in-plane directions of the plurality of optical retardation films excluding optical retardation films whose phase-delay axes are located in parallel with the absorption axes of polarizing elements adjacent thereto being represented by  $R_{p-t}$ , the sum of retardations  $R_t$  in the direction of thickness of the plurality of optical retardation films being represented by  $R_{t-t}$ .



75. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 74, wherein the retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer is in the range between 250 nm and 310 nm inclusive; the sum  $R_{t-t}$  of the retardations in the direction of the thickness is in the range between 180 nm and 260 nm inclusive; and the sum of the retardations in in-plane directions of the optical retardation films of the first type is in the range between 25 nm and 50 nm inclusive.

76. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 74, wherein the retardation  $R_{LC}$  in the liquid crystal layer is in the range between 310 nm and 390 nm inclusive; the sum  $R_{t-t}$  of the retardations in the direction of the thickness is in the range between 230 nm and 350 nm inclusive; and the sum of the retardations in in-plane directions of the optical retardation films of the first type is in the range between 25 nm and 50 nm inclusive.

77. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 74, wherein the optical retardation film of the first type is a film stretched in the direction of one or two axes.

78. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display according to Claim 74, wherein the optical retardation film of the second type is a protective member that constitutes a polarizer in combination with the polarizing element.

79-81. (Canceled)